

The Colored News.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1855.

[TWO PENCE.]

HORRIBLE COLLIERY EXPLOSION AT DARLEY MAINE.



WONDERFUL ESCAPE OF JOHN HARPER AND A PARTY OF PITMEN.

Of all the accidents to which coal-mines are exposed, the explosion of inflammable gas or fire-damp are the most frequent, and by far the most calamitous in their consequences. All coal, even the charcoal like variety called anthracite, appears to contain, in its natural state while underground, a considerable quantity of free uncombined gas, which it parts with when exposed to the air, or when it is relieved from great superincumbent pressure. The gas is evolved from the coal in great quantity at the ordinary temperature of the mines; and instances have been known of explosions on board of ships laden with fresh worked coals. Coals lying deep give out more gas than those near the surface, because there are openings at the surface by which it escapes; but in the deep mines it cannot have such an outlet, and therefore it accumulates in all the fissures of the stone above the coal, and this sort of natural distillation is constantly going on. The fissures of the roof are in some places very great, and there are sometimes miles of communication from one fissure to another: they may be considered as natural gasometers, and having no outlet, and the process of distillation constantly going on, the gas becomes accumulated in them in a very highly condensed state, the degree of condensation depending on the thickness of the surrounding rock and the quantity poured in. In the course of pursuing the workings the miners sometimes cut across one of those fissures, or approach so near to it, that the intervening rock becomes too weak to resist the elastic force of the compressed gas; it gives way, and then, in either case, the gas rushes out with immense force. These *blowers*, as they are called, emit sometimes as much as 700 hogsheds of gas in a minute, and continue in a state of activity for many months together.

Sir James Lowther found a uniform current of gas in one of his mines for two years and nine months.

This gas, in the state in which it issues from the coal, burns with a bright flame, like ordinary artificial coal gas; but when united with a certain portion of the air of the atmosphere, the mixture becomes explosive, that is, the whole volume of air, upon the approach of a flame, suddenly catches fire, and goes off like gunpowder, with a tremendous explosion. If there be more than one volume or bulk of the inflammable gas to fourteen of atmospheric air, the mixture is explosive, and must not be approached with a naked flame. Great pains are taken to ventilate the mines so as to free them from this foul air, by large fires kept constantly burning at the mouth of the ventilating shaft, aided very often by air pumps worked by steam-engines, to quicken the draft; and which are sometimes so powerful as to draw out of the mine 1000 hogsheds of air in a minute. One mine is described as generating so much gas as to require a supply of 18,000 cubic feet of atmospheric air in a minute to keep it in a safe working state. Men can continue to work and breathe in an explosive mixture of the gas without feeling any material inconvenience; and formerly such places were approached by making use of what were called Steel Mills, to give light. This machine consists of a small wheel of steel, of six or seven inches diameter, moved by a little toothed wheel with great velocity, and by holding a piece of flint to the steel, a stream of sparks is given out. Although in the day the light appears very feeble, in the darkness of the mines it is strong enough to enable one to write by it; but the use of the steel mill is not free from danger of explosion in certain mixtures of the gas. That contrivance

has, however, been now completely set aside by the important and beautiful discovery of Sir Humphry Davy, the Safety-Lamp. That eminent philosopher instituted a long series of experiments on the nature of the fire-damp, and on the proportions with which it must be mixed with atmospheric air in order to become explosive. He found that, in respect of combustibility, the fire-damp differs most materially from the other common inflammable gases, inasmuch as it requires a far higher temperature before it can be set on fire; an iron rod, at the highest degree of red heat, and at the common degree of white heat, did not inflame explosive mixtures of the fire-damp, and an explosion only took place when a flame was applied. He further made the important discovery, that flame will not pass through a tube with a very small bore; and, guided by his principle, he was ultimately led, through a train of ingenious experiments, to the construction of an instrument which has saved, and will continue to save, the lives of hundreds, and which has rendered a large extent of property productive that the proprietors were unable to turn to any profitable account. Since the discovery of the Davy Lamp accidents by explosion have been considerably diminished, although we still hear too frequently of many lives being lost from this cause, as in the engraving above, which will be long remembered in the Darley district. These melancholy disasters are partly occasioned perhaps by venturing into too dangerous places, but most frequently by the carelessness and criminal daring of the workmen themselves, who, in order to get a little more light, take off the wire-gauze covering.

NEW BILLINGSGATE MARKET.



A CHAPTER ON ENGRAVING.

Some writers are fond of carrying the origin of engraving to a very high antiquity, by quoting as examples of the practice of the art such carvings in wood or metal, or stone, as have been found in various degrees of excellence among almost all nations,—among our own Saxon and even British ancestors, as well as among the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. But this is to confound two things which are entirely distinct. Such works as those alluded to are specimens of sculpture, not of what we now call engraving. The modern art known by that name applies to the production of a print, or rather of a number of prints, from a design cut in wood and metal. The mere cutting out both of letters and of figures in a hard substance has been practised from the earliest ages; the art of obtaining letters and figures so cut out from copies or impressions by means of a colouring matter spread over them, and thence transferred to some other substance, is, in Europe at least, altogether a modern invention. The ancients were, indeed, accustomed to produce impressions by means of stamps in a variety of cases; they struck coins, they made seals in wax, they even marked the weight and quality of their loaves of bread with a stamp. On the other hand, they applied a colored liquid to make marks, both in their painting, with a brush or pencil, and in writing, with a reed or other species of pen. What they did not do was just to use the two methods at once,—to take the impression from the stamp, not by making it enter into the substance of the material on which it was pressed, but only by making it communicate to that material a fluid colour. The principal cause undoubtedly which prevented the ancients, after advancing so far as they did, from discovering the art of printing, was the want of any general demand for books. A high price, it is true, was paid for books, and must have been paid, by the few who did buy them; the labour necessary for the copying of a manuscript was great, and a book therefore could not be obtained for a small sum. If there be an article which from its nature cannot be expected to ensure more than a very limited demand, let it be produced at what price it may, it is evident that in the case of that article the usual incentives are in great part wanting which excite the ingenuity of the manufacturer to endeavour, as in all other cases, to find out the cheapest way of producing it. Now, in Greece and Rome, and also throughout the middle ages, this appears to have been nearly the case with books. Very large prices were obtained for manuscripts upon which much labour had been bestowed; but the number of purchasers was extremely limited: and from the state of the general population it was scarcely to be expected that a reduction of price would ensure any considerable extension of the market.

It was the general demand for the Bible, or rather perhaps for religious manuals of various descriptions, which first altered this state of things; and to that cause therefore we owe the art of printing, whether as regards print-

THE MARKET AS SEEN FROM THE RIVER THAMES.

ing from moveable types, or from blocks of wood, or from metal plates. The step from which had been already done to the completion of this great invention was so immediate and easy, that we seem to be quite warranted in accounting for it not having been made sooner, simply from the absence of any strong inducement to make it. There was no one sold, or could reasonably be expected to be sold, at more ingenuity to the manufacture was likely to allow; such application therefore was not thought of. But when, in the early part of the fifteenth century, after the several nations of Europe had settled down, and as it were ripened into something like social organization, and the revival of classical learning had spread abroad over the community, much more general scholarship than before existed, the demand grew up not merely among the clergy, but to a great extent among the laity also for the Latin Scriptures, and other devotional works. A state of things then for the first time presented itself, in which it might be considered certain, that a reduction of price would bring with it a large extension of the market. In the case of one class of books, at least, this was sure to follow; and religious books accordingly were the first to which the new art was applied.

The art of printing would probably of itself have speedily led to that of engraving; but in point of fact, it would rather appear that the latter had a distinct origin of its own. As the general demand for the Bible prompted the one invention, so a general demand of a very different kind, that, namely, for playing-cards, seems to have previously suggested the first idea and application of the other. Playing-cards were certainly known in Germany before the year 1376. It is probable that they were at first painted individually by the hand, as books were written; and the more expensive sorts may have been long continued to be prepared in this way. But it appears certain, that the makers at length began to stamp them from blocks, probably of wood, when they had come into general use. Here, then, was what we now call wood-engraving invented and put in practice. In this process, as in letter-press printing, the mark is made upon the paper by the raised parts of the stamp, or rather by those which are not cut away; the scooped-out parts receiving no ink, and of course transmitting none to the paper. The method of printing from a wood-cut, therefore, is exactly the same with that of printing from ordinary types; and the two can be accordingly combined in the same page. Wood-cuts were introduced into books very soon after the invention of printing. The process of copper-plate printing proceeds upon a different principle. In the copper, the parts which are to receive the ink and make the impression, are cut out, either in lines or dots, and the surface of the metal which remains raised leaves no mark. To prevent it, therefore, from retaining any ink, this surface has to be carefully rubbed dry after every impression, and only the

ink which is in the hollows of the plate allowed to remain. This makes copper-plate printing an exceedingly tedious operation, and also one which cannot be combined with that of letter-press. These repeated rubbings, too, very soon wear out the plate; but this last disadvantage has of late years been completely obviated by the substitution of steel for copper, in every department of metallic engraving where large number of impressions are required. When in steel or copper engraving, the dark parts of the picture are cut out in lines, the process is called line-engraving; when in dots, it is called dot-engraving, or stippling. In both, the shades are made lighter or deeper by the lines or dots being kept more or less apart. Frequently, however, these marks are not made by a cutting-tool, but by the method called etching, which consists in the application of aqua-fortis, or some other acid, to bite into the metal. In nearly all plates etching is the first step in the process. The surface of the plate is spread over with a composition or varnish which is not affected by the action of the acid; to this the design intended to be engraved is transferred, either by being drawn upon it (in reverse of course) with the hand, or by impressing upon the composition by passing it through the rolling-press. The varnish, or ground, as it is called, is then carefully cut away down to the copper, wherever it is thus marked. After this the aqua-fortis is poured over the whole, and kept standing upon it by a rim of wax erected around the plate, until it is considered to have eaten deep enough into the copper at those places from which the varnish has been removed. The lines thus formed, however, frequently receive a finishing touch from the graver; and one part of the plate is often wholly cut by the graver, while another part not requiring the same delicacy of touch is done by the easier method of etching. Albert Durer has been usually stated to have been the inventor of etching; and he was undoubtedly the person by whom it was first brought to any degree of perfection. Lastly, there is first process, commonly called among us mezzotinto-engraving (that is, half-printing, from the effect it produces being conceived to resemble that of colours), but by foreigners the invention has been ascribed to Prince Rupert; but it was practised by others before him, and it is now generally officer, of the name of Siegen, or Sichen. The whole surface of the plate is first made rough and raised up by being, as it were, repeatedly harrowed in various directions by an instrument called the grounding-tool, adapted to that purpose. All that has then to be done is to bruise down and smooth with the burnisher those places which are to represent the bright or less shaded parts of the design, the smoothing being made partial or complete according as more or less shade is necessary.

The Past Week.

September 9.—*Daniel Defoe* born 1661. Although more than a century has passed since the author of "Robinson Crusoe" ceased to live, his evergreen has not yet obtained in the general estimation the same of fame and that rank in English literature to which it is justly entitled. Defoe's life was a life of extraordinary activity; an account of which, therefore, if given in detail, might occupy, as indeed it has been made to occupy, volumes. He was born in 1661, in London, where his father was a butcher, of the parish of St. Giles's, Cripplegate. The family name was Foe, to which he appears to have himself prefixed the De. His father, who was a dissenter, sent him to be educated at an academy at Newington Green, kept by a clergyman of his own persuasion. Here he distinguished himself by his fondness for reading every thing that came in his way, and his industry in storing his mind with useful knowledge. On leaving the academy he is supposed to have been bound apprentice to a hosier; and he afterwards set up for himself in that line in Freeman's Yard, Cornhill. It is probable, however, that he had scarcely finished his apprenticeship when he made his first appearance as an author; for in one of his later writings he mentions a political pamphlet which he published in 1683, and in terms which almost seem to imply that even that was not the first production from his pen; he was then, he says, "but a young man, and a young author."

10.—*Lord Somers* born 1652. This celebrated nobleman was one of those happy individuals who rapidly rose to professional distinction. In the great trial of the Seven Bishops, which took place in the Court of King's Bench on the 29th of June, 1683, Somers was engaged as one of the counsel for the defence. His appearance on this occasion brought him conspicuously before the nation, both as one of the ablest lawyers of the day, and one of the most formidable champions of the popular party in the state. It is understood, indeed, that he was already one of the confidential advisers of the Prince of Orange. Accordingly, at the close of this year, when the Prince, after his landing, summoned the Convention, Somers was chosen as a representative to that assembly by his native town of Worcester. He took a leading part in the discussions which followed, and especially distinguished himself in the conference between the Lord and Commons, on the famous resolution of the latter, that the King, James II., had abdicated the government, and that the throne was thereby become vacant. He also acted as chairman of the second of the two committees appointed to arrange the securities of the new settlement, on whose report was founded the Declaration of Right; and is probably, therefore, to be considered as one of the chief among "those whose penetrating style," as Burke has strikingly expressed it, "has entered into our ordinances, and, by its vigour, has made the words and spirit of the law its own." Soon after the accomplishment of the Revolution he was made Solicitor-General, and knighted. On the 2nd of May, 1692, he exchanged this office for that of Attorney-General; and on the 23rd of March, in the following year, he was elevated to the dignity of Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. He presided in the Court of Chancery under this title till the 22nd of April, 1697, when he was appointed Lord High Chancellor, and raised to the peerage as Baron Somers of Evesham. In the Parliament, however, which met in December, 1698, the party to which Lord Somers had been all his life opposed, after they began to direct the most violent and persevering attacks against the Chancellor. Of their charges, we can only afford room to state, that they now seem to be considered, by historians of all shades of opinion, as entirely without foundation. At the time, however, they served the purpose of their authors too well. After various other proceedings, on the 1st of April, 1700, an address was moved in the House of Commons for the dismissal of the Chancellor. It was negatived; but King William, alarmed by the pertinacity of the enemies of his able and honest minister, and actuated by the hope that by that sacrifice the clamours of the faction might be appeased, a few days after asked Lord Somers to make a voluntary surrender of the seals. His lordship did not think that it became him thus to assist by his own act those who wished to accomplish his degradation, and respectfully refused to comply with the royal request. The King then sent an express to the lords for the seals, when they were instantly delivered up. But even the dismissal of Lord Somers did not put an end to the persecution of which he was the object. On the 14th of April, 1701, the House of Commons sent up articles of impeachment against him to the Lords. When the day for the trial came, however, nobody appeared to support the charges; and his lordship was, of course, acquitted. He now retired altogether for some time from public affairs, devoting himself to those literary and scientific pursuits which in his busiest days he had never entirely neglected. His health, however, began rapidly to decline, and although he appeared at the Council Board after the accession of George I., both his body and mind were by that time so much enfeebled as to incapacitate him from taking any share in business. At last, on the 26th of April, 1716, a stroke of apoplexy terminated his sufferings in death. Lord Somers never was married, and his estates went to the descendants of a sister.

11.—*Battle of Lelich*, 1803.

12.—*Albert Durer*, born 1471. This highly gifted man was equally eminent as a painter and as an engraver, and decidedly surpassed all his countrymen in both capacities during the age in which he flourished. In the history of early engraving, there is scarcely perhaps a greater name than his.

13.—*Dr. Fenton*, born 1705. This physician was a Frenchman and a man of moderate ability, and was called the King of Quacks. In getting himself a notoriety, he was in the habit of employing a very ingenious artifice. When he came to a town where he was not known, he pretended to have lost his dog, and ordered the public prior to offer, with beat of drum, a reward of twenty-five louis to whoever should bring it to him. The first who took care to mention all the titles and academic honours of the doctor, as well as his place of residence. He soon became the talk of the town. "Do you know," says one, "that a famous physician has come here, a very clever fellow; he must be very rich, for he offers twenty-five louis for finding his dog." The dog was not found, but patients were.

General Wolfe, killed 1759.

14.—*Duke of Wellington*, died 1832.

15.—*The Globe Theatre* opened for Dramatic Performances, 1850. The Globe, which was converted from a beer garden into a theatre, stood near the opposite end of Queen-street, Cheap-side, and was a hexagonal building of wood, partly open at the top, partly thatched with reeds. The performances took place by daylight, and during the time of playing a flag was displayed on the roof. About 1596, the proprietors, of whom Shakespeare became subsequently one, had the old edifice pulled down, and a more commodious theatre erected. On the 29th June, 1613, the new house was entirely destroyed by fire. The performers were representing Shakespeare's play of Henry VIII., and on the King's entrance in the masquerade some cannon were discharged, the wadding from which set fire to the theatre. In the following day it was rebuilt with more splendour than it before could boast of, and performances were continued at it till the year 1642, when

the Parliament issued an order for suppressing all theatrical representations. Its site is now occupied by Barclay and Perkins's brewery, formerly the property of Mr. Thrale.

Burning of Moscow, 1812.

First Newspaper published 1558. It was in the shape of a pamphlet, called the "English Mercurie;" the first number of which is still preserved in the British Museum. There were, however, no newspapers which appeared in England in single sheets of paper as they do at present, until many years after that time. The first of the "Public Intelligencer," was published by Sir Roger L'Estrange, on the 31st of August, 1661. Periodical pamphlets, which had become fashionable in the reign of Charles I., were more rare in the reign of James II. The English rebellion of 1714 gave rise to a great number of tracts filled with violent appeals to the public; many of these tracts bore the title of "Diurnal Occurrences of Parliament." The first Gazette in England was published at Oxford, on November 7th, 1655, the court being then held there. On the removal of the court to London, the title was altered to "The London Gazette." The "Orange Intelligencer" was the third newspaper published, and the first after the revolution in 1688. This latter continued to be the only daily newspaper in England for some years; but in 1690 there appear to have been nine London newspapers published weekly. In Queen Anne's reign (in 1709) the number of these was increased to eighteen; but still there continued to be but one daily paper, which was then called "The London Courant." In the reign of George I. the number was three daily, six weekly, and ten published three times in the week.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. R. (LOUGHBOUGH).—The attempt is preposterous. When you have mastered all the means of art, apply them to the natural unpremeditated expression of your thought, and originality must be the result; for no two people are formed either mentally or physically exactly alike.

JAMES RHODES (BRIGHTON).—Persevere and success will be the result. A friend called on Michael Angelo, who was finishing a statue. Some time afterwards he called again; the sculptor was still at his work. His friend, looking at the figure, exclaimed, "You have been idle since I saw you last. By no means replied the sculptor, I have retouched this part, and polished that; I have softened this feature, and brought out this muscle; I have given more expression to this lip, and more energy to this limb. Well, well, said his friend, but all these are trifles. It may be so, replied Angelo, but recollect that trifles make perfection, and that perfection is his triump.

GEORGE W. (HENDON).—The discovery ought not to be treated lightly. Seek another patron. When the air-ballooned first discovered, some one flippantly asked Dr. Franklin what was the use of it. The doctor answered this question by asking another: "What is the use of a new-born infant? It may become a man."

TO OUR READERS.

ON AND AFTER NEXT SATURDAY, THE 22nd inst, THE "COLORED NEWS" WILL BE INCREASED IN SIZE AND ALTERED IN APPEARANCE. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE MOST ARTIFICIAL ATTENTION TO THE EMBELLISHMENT AND GENERAL CONTENTS. IT IS HOPED THAT THE IMPROVEMENT WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO THE PUBLIC, AND EVINCE THE GRATITUDE OF THE PROPRIETORS FOR THE UNEXAMPLED SUPPORT AND PATRONAGE THEY HAVE RECEIVED AT THE HANDS OF THEIR SUBSCRIBERS.

LOOKING GLASSES.—THE COMMERCIAL PLATE GLASS COMPANY, Manager, CHARLES MCLEAN, 75, 79, and 80, Fleet-street, and 185, Oxford-street (note the name and the numbers), very respectfully invite the nobility, the public, and the trade to inspect their extensive and magnificent stock of CHINESE and PIER GLASSES, framed in every variety of style; console, centre, and pier tables; solid mahogany table and chival glass, girandoles, &c. The public will find on inspection the enormous variety and extent of their trade, and being manufacturers, supply looking glasses and plate glass at about one-half the price usually charged. The goods are of the best quality and warranted. Estimates given all over England, free of expense.—May be had gratis, and sent free by post, large sheets of drawings, exhibiting the exact patterns and prices of about 400 various sized looking glasses, picture frames, cornices, console tables, &c.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1855.

THERE is no denying, no blinking the very serious fact, which the daily experience of our Police Courts forces upon our notice, that we are rapidly accumulating within this metropolis an unnatural amount of criminal population. Unnatural we call it, because in the nature of things, wherever large masses of men are congregated together, it must be expected that a certain proportion,—the ratio increasing with the numbers of the population,—will become addicted to vicious habits and criminal practices. To keep these in check, to throw impediments in the way of their attempts upon the order and security of society, to punish them when crimes are committed, to endeavour to reclaim them, and, until they are reclaimed, to put the commission of fresh offences out of their power,—such are the functions of civil society in dealing with its moral excrecences. But we have grown much too refined on the one hand, too utilitarian on the other hand, to provide for the performance of those functions in the manner in which they ought to be performed. We are too refined,—our sensibility will not permit us to contemplate the punishment of crime. A morbid, utopian philanthropy has taught us to regard every criminal as an object of more than ordinary sympathy, and, as the greater the crime, the more intense is the sympathy. A conviction was made the other day for a murderess, tender in years but precocious in crime, who, by one of those lucky loopholes left open by our judicial system, escaped a capital conviction for one of the most brutal and cold-blooded homicides ever committed,—for the purpose of enabling her to emigrate, and starting her in life in a comfortable position. How many a poor virtuous girl, who would shudder to contemplate such a deed as the other committed, would be too thankful to be thus equipped for a start in the colonies. In vain, however, would she hope in these days for like advantages. She is but an honest and

a starving girl, and there are too many of them to attract notice, whereas the other, being the perpetrator of a murder of singular atrocity, stands out prominently before the world, a unique and therefore highly interesting creature, possessing all the qualifications calculated in such an age as ours to concentrate upon herself the sympathies of a benevolent public. Besides, she enjoys the great advantage, in common with other criminals, that she has come within the fangs of the law. That alone confers a title to public consideration. The law, of course, is harsh, inhuman, it inflicts pain, and those on whom it is inflicted are to be pitied accordingly. And how, then, do we show our pity? By gradually paring away the punishments by which those whose higher motives do not hold in check, are deterred from crime. Capital punishment, even in cases where the Divine law clearly points out as the just and proper penalty of the crime, is looked upon as a relic of barbarism; to flogging we can hardly make up our minds; it is a brutal practice; convict labour in penal settlements beyond the seas is a degrading process, not to be applied except in extreme cases; transportation, with a prospect of exile for life, or for a long term of years, is a cruel ultimatum, to say nothing of the objections made to it by our colonists; imprisonment at home, if with hard labour, is prejudicial to health, if in solitary confinement, it depresses the spirits. What is to be done? We must give our criminals some small taste of penal consequences, were it only to keep the police and the quarter sessions in countenance. By way of experiment we send them to prison for nominally long and really short terms, and when they have had an opportunity of establishing acquaintance with the gaoler and the chaplain, we give them the opportunity of seeing a little more of the world. They take their leave with a friendly *au revoir*, and the next day sees them at their former haunts, where a hearty welcome from old associates awaits them. Not unnaturally desirous to add to the zest of their next meeting with the prison authorities by deferring the pleasure as long as possible, they take care to carry on their former occupations by deputy. Each criminal so restored to his place in society becomes a pedagogue of crime. The unemployed, the idle, the dissolute, are plentiful in this large metropolis, there is no lack of willing and apt pupils, the terms of their articles are divisions of profits, and in case of discovery, the escape of the principal, who, till his next unlucky chance comes round, is thus enabled not only to make a living of it himself, but to put many more in the way of going so. These, in their turn, undergo the same process; they go to prison and coming out with a ticket-of-leave, is for them the same as passing through the schools and coming out with a degree is for their betters. Their ticket-of-leave is the diploma in the criminal world. Thus our criminals are multiplying, not only by natural propagation, but by moral inoculation. The lanes and alleys of the districts which the Metropolitan Improvement Commissioners have not yet taken under their enlightened patronage, swarm with them. Yet they saffly forth into our great streets and leading thoroughfares, they beset our theatres and exhibitions, there is no place of amusement which they do not frequent, they ride in our omnibuses and on our railroads, earning their fares as they travel along. Even to our churches they repair on special occasions, at consecrations, confirmations, and the like. They lead a life of constant variety and excitement, from which a few months' return to prison-fare and prison-quietude is, if not an agreeable, at least a beneficial change. Meanwhile society is made a prey, life and property are becoming alarmingly insecure; numberless ingenious schemes for securing the unwary are devised, and it is as much as intelligence and watchfulness of the sharps which lie in wait at every corner, and move about in every busy thoroughfare, the busiest of them all, as serious as all this is, as well as discreditable to a civilised community, it is the most superficial and the highest aspect of a social mischief, the graver features of which we propose to examine on a future occasion.

The Janette, Danish brig, drifted into Aekhus, Bahamas, on July 14, with all her crew dead, and her sails loose. It is supposed the crew were murdered the day before, as a brig was seen with a schooner along side on that day.

A poor case of child-starving has been brought before the Lord Mayor, the accused being John Jones, a Wesleyan, and Eliza his wife, living in Montague-court, Bishopsgate-street. From the evidence produced it appears that the prisoners were in the habit of getting drunk, that they had sold all their furniture to get drink, and used to leave their child lying naked on the floor, lock it up, and go out to their debauch. A neighbour found the child in a state of indescribable filth, and covered with sores; it is said it had nothing to eat; the woman fetched some bread and butter, but the child was too weak to raise its hand to its mouth. The prisoners were committed for trial.

A gentleman attended at the Guildhall to complain of a gang of selling-off swindlers, who had taken a house on Ludgate-hill, which they denominated "Ye house of Lud," and were cheating unwary people into buying their "bargains" of linendraperies. The gang advertised themselves as purchasers of the "stock of Sir John Dear Paul," and had taken the assurance to post up handbills, announcing themselves the purchasers of the stock of a draper a few doors off, whom they described as insolvent. The presiding alderman informed the complainant that he might give the offenders handbills, and the draper who was falsely represented to have become insolvent had been removed in the superior courts.

Donnybrook fair must be considered a thing of the past. There was scarcely an attempt to revive, even on a limited scale, the sports that characterised the fair; scarcely a dozen persons were to be seen in the neighbourhood of the Green; a miserable attempt to get up a dance in the rear-room of a public-house, and the occasional crack of a percussion-gun at one solitary "shooting gallery," were the only circumstances to remind the spectator of the past glories of "the Brook."

As General Crosbie, of the Belgian army, was going to the camp of Beverloo, to receive the King of the Belgians and the Count de Flandre, he suddenly saw back on his horse, and then fell lifeless to the ground. A fit of apoplexy had produced instantaneous death. The deceased was only in his fifty-eighth year.

The harvest is proceeding vigorously throughout the country, and already many acres of wheat have been cut and housed in prime condition. It has been stated in some quarters that mildew has been found to a great extent in the wheat in the East of Devon, but little reliance can be placed on the report. From observations made over a very extensive district we learn that, although anything like an approximation to the crop would at present be difficult and imperfect, the yield of wheat will be quite an average one.

During the progress of an excursion train from Newcastle to this, a young man named Fettes got on the roof of the carriage to look at the scenery. He was addressing some remark through the hole in the roof in which he placed his head, when his body came in contact with a bridge on the line, and the concussion caused instant death. He was shockingly mutilated.

conveyances, manifest, and otherwise.

